Claims

1. A peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of formula (I)

Z^1-Arg-X^2-X^3-Ile-X^5-X^6-X^7-X^8-X^9-Z^2-Y^1 (I)

or formula (II)

Z^1-Arg-Val(Arg/Lys)Ile-Asp-Gly-X^7-Pro-X^9-Z^2-Y^1 (II)

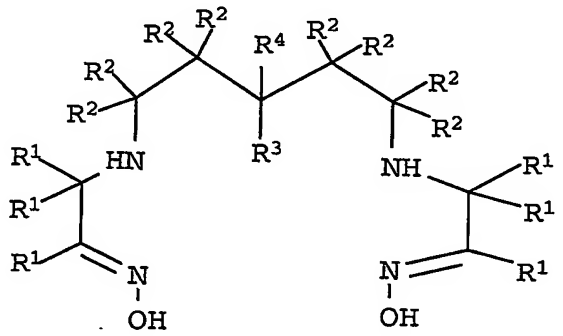
wherein
X^2 is an amino acid selected from the group Val, Leu, Ile and Tyr
X^3 is an amino acid selected from the group Arg, Lys, Tyr, Ile and Asn
X^5 is an amino acid selected from the group Asp and Asn
X^6 is an amino acid selected from the group Gly, Asn and Gln
X^7 is an amino acid selected from the group Ala, Met, Gln, Arg, Glu and Val,
X^8 is an amino acid selected from the group Pro, Gly, Ser and Arg
X^9 is an amino acid selected from the group Ala, Met, Gln, Arg, Gly and Val
Z^1 represent an amino acid residue capable of forming a disulphide bond, preferably a cysteine or a homocysteine residue, or a residue capable of forming a thioether preferably the residue is Q-C(=O) wherein Q represents $-(CH_2)n$ or $-(CH_2)_n$-C_6H_4 where n represents a positive integer 1 to 10 or is absent and
Z^2 represent an amino acid residue capable of forming a disulphide bond, preferably a cysteine or a homocysteine residue or is absent
Y^1 represents 1-10 amino acids or is absent
or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A peptide according to claim 1 of the amino acid sequence
Cys-Arg-Val-Arg-Ile-Asp-Gly-Ala-Pro-Ala-Cys, (SEQ ID NO 1),
Cys-Arg-Val-Arg-Ile-Asp-Asn-Met-Pro-Met-Cys, (SEQ ID NO 2),
Cys-Arg-Val-Arg-Ile-Asn-Gly-Gln-Pro-Gln-Cys, (SEQ ID NO 3),
Cys-Arg-Val-Lys-Ile-Asp-Gly-Arg-Pro-Met-Cys, (SEQ ID NO 4),
Cys-Arg-Leu-Lys-Ile-Asp-Gly-Met-Pro-Arg-Cys, (SEQ ID NO 5),
Cys-Arg-Ile-Lys-Ile-Asp-Gly-Glu-Gly-Gln-Cys, (SEQ ID NO 6),
Cys-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-Asp-Gly-Val-Ser-Val-Cys, (SEQ ID NO 7),
Cys-Arg-Val-Ile-Ile-Asp-Gly-Arg-Arg-Met-Cys, (SEQ ID NO 8),

Cys-Arg-Tyr-Asn-Ile-Asp-Gly-Arg-Pro-Gln-Cys, (SEQ ID NO 9) or
Cys-Arg-Ile-Arg-Ile-Asp-Gln-Arg-Pro-Ala-Cys, (SEQ ID NO 10).

3. A targetable diagnostic and/ or therapeutically active agent of formula (III)
V-L-Z Formula (III)
wherein the vector V is a peptide according to claim 1- 2
L represents a bond, a spacer or a linker and
Z represents an antineoplastic agent, a reporter moiety or a group that optionally can carry an imaging moiety M.

4. An agent as claimed in claim 3 where Z is a chelating agent of Formula IV



(IV)

where:
each R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is independently an R group;
each R group is independently H or C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{3-10} alkylaryl, C_{2-10} alkoxyalkyl, C_{1-10} hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-10} alkylamine, C_{1-10} fluoroalkyl, or 2 or more R groups, together with the atoms to which they are attached form a carbocyclic, heterocyclic, saturated or unsaturated ring.

5. An agent as claimed in any of the previous claims 3 to 4 wherein Z comprises a reporter moiety M wherein the reporter moiety comprises metal radionuclides, paramagnetic metal ions, fluorescent metal ions, heavy metal ions or cluster ions.

6. An agent as claimed in claim 5 wherein the reporter moiety M comprises ^{90}Y, ^{99m}Tc, ^{111}In, ^{47}Sc, ^{67}Ga, ^{51}Cr, ^{177m}Sn, ^{67}Cu, ^{167}Tm, ^{97}Ru, ^{188}Re, ^{177}Lu, ^{199}Au, ^{203}Pb, ^{141}Ce or ^{18}F.

7. An agent as claimed in claims 3 to 6 where each reporter (Z) can carry a multiplicity of vectors V.

8. An agent as claimed in claim 3 where the antineoplastic agent , Z represent cyclophosphamide, chloroambucil, busulphan, methotrexate, cytarabine, fluorouracil, vinblastine, paclitaxel, doxorubicin, daunorubicin, etoposide, teniposide, cisplatin, amsacrine or docetaxel.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of general Formula (III) or a salt thereof, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, excipients or diluents.

10. A method of generating enhanced images of a human or animal body previously administered with a contrast agent composition comprising a compound as claimed in claims 3 to 7, which method comprises generating an image of at least part of said body.